

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

20. (Currently Amended) Wire pit for an approach system of a web formation machine comprising:

a chute located in an upper portion of the wire pit for receiving white water,
wherein said chute forms a lower surface of the upper portion of the wire pit,

an overflow portion adjacent said chute for stabilizing a surface level of the white water in the wire pit,

a gas separator for separating gas from the white waters, and

a lower portion downstream of the upper portion and said lower portion having an outlet connectable to a mixing pump, wherein at least one wall of the wire pit converges downwardly to provide flow direction of the liquid through the wire pit which deviates from a vertical angle.

21. (Original) A wire pit according to claim 20 wherein the upper portion of the wire pit has walls sloped downwards and outwards.

22. (Currently Amended) A wire pit ~~according to claim 20~~ for an approach system of a web formation machine comprising:

a chute located in an upper portion of the wire pit for receiving white water,

an overflow portion adjacent said chute for stabilizing a surface level of the white water in the wire pit,

a gas separator for separating gas from the white waters, and
a lower portion downstream of the upper portion and said lower portion having an
outlet connectable to a mixing pump, wherein at least one wall of the wire pit converges
downwardly to provide flow direction of the liquid through the wire pit which deviates
from vertical, and

wherein the wire pit has ~~having~~ a flow path cross-section converging in a flow direction, and the lower portion is adjustable to a plurality of angular positions in relation to said upper portion.

23. (Original) A wire pit according to claim 22, wherein the wire pit further comprises a middle portion located between said upper portion and lower portion, and the middle portion is adjustable to a plurality of angular positions in relation to at least one of said upper portion and said lower portion.

24. (Original) A wire pit according to claim 22, wherein the lower portion is connectable to the mixing pump.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) A wire pit according to claim 20, wherein said chute is divided into to at least two flow paths for white water streams having different fiber contents.

27.(Original). A wire pit according to claim 20, wherein said chute includes a plurality of flow paths for white water streams having various fiber contents.

28. (Original) A wire pit according to claim 20, wherein the overflow portion includes an upper edge of a wall of the wire pit.

29. (Original) A wire pit according to claims 26, wherein said chute is connected in a downstream direction to a deflector which directs a flow of white waters having a higher fiber content to a zone of the wire pit distant from the overflow portion.

30. (Currently Amended) A wire pit according to claim ~~25~~ 20, wherein a wall of the wire pit is located adjacent the chute, and said wall is sloped downwards and outwards at an angle in a range of 5 degrees to 30 degrees from ~~vertical~~ horizontal.

31. (Currently Amended) A wire pit according to claim ~~25~~ 20, wherein a wall of the wire pit extends from chute in a flow direction, and said wall descends at an angle in a range of 20 degrees to 45 degrees from horizontal.

32. (Currently Amended) A wire pit ~~according to claim 31~~, for an approach system of a web formation machine comprising:

a chute located in an upper portion of the wire pit for receiving white water,
an overflow portion adjacent said chute for stabilizing a surface level of the white water in the wire pit,

a gas separator for separating gas from the white water, and
a lower portion downstream of the upper portion and said lower portion having an outlet connectable to a mixing pump, wherein at least one wall of the wire pit converges downwardly to provide flow direction of the liquid through the wire pit which deviates from vertical

wherein said chute forms a bottom of the upper portion of the wire pit

wherein a wall of the wire pit extends from chute in a flow direction, and said wall descends at an angle in a range of 20 degrees to 45 degrees from horizontal, and

wherein downstream of said wall the wire pit further comprises a middle portion between said upper portion and lower portion, and a wall of said middle portion descends at an angle of 35 degrees to 55 degrees from horizontal.

33. (Currently Amended) A wire pit ~~according to claim 26, for an approach~~
system of a web formation machine comprising:

a chute located in an upper portion of the wire pit for receiving white water,
an overflow portion adjacent said chute for stabilizing a surface level of the white
water in the wire pit,

a gas separator for separating gas from the white water, and
a lower portion downstream of the upper portion and said lower portion having an
outlet connectable to a mixing pump, wherein at least one wall of the wire pit converges
downwardly to provide flow direction of the liquid through the wire pit which deviates
from vertical,

wherein said chute is divided into to at least two flow paths for white water
streams having different fiber contents, and

wherein at least 50% of the overflow portion is in a zone containing a pulp fraction flow with a lower fiber content.

34. (Original) A wire pit according to claim 26, wherein the overflow portion or a flow channel downstream of the overflow portion includes a fiber fraction separator for separating fiber from overflow liquid.

35. (Original) A wire pit according to claim 34, wherein said fiber fraction separator is a curved screen or pressure screen.

36. (Original) A wire pit according to claim 20, wherein said gas separator is at the upper portion of the wire pit.

37. (Currently Amended) A wire pit ~~according to claim 36, for an approach~~
system of a web formation machine comprising:

a chute located in an upper portion of the wire pit for receiving white water,
an overflow portion adjacent said chute for stabilizing a surface level of the white
water in the wire pit,

a gas separator for separating gas from the white waters and said gas separator is
at the upper portion of the wire pit, and

a lower portion downstream of the upper portion and said lower portion having an
outlet connectable to a mixing pump, wherein at least one wall of the wire pit converges
downwardly to provide flow direction of the liquid through the wire pit which deviates
from vertical,

wherein the overflow portion has an overflow edge, and a height of the overflow edge, measured from a center line of the outlet opening of the lower portion of the wire pit, is in a range of two to five times a diameter of the outlet opening.

38. (Original) A wire pit according to claim 20, further comprising walls having an inside surface including at least one deflector positioned in a flow path through the pit.